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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FREDERICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS “NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK”: MAY 14 – 20, 2017

FREDERICK, MD -- During the week of May 14th, the Frederick County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services Division will recognize and participate in “National Prevention Week”. Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the theme for the national event will be “Making Each Day Count”. This theme highlights the important role that individuals and communities have in helping people lead healthy, productive lives and in raising awareness about the importance of substance use prevention and promotion of mental health.

During “National Prevention Week”, six of the seven days will focus on a specific topic related to substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion. The topic areas will include the prevention of youth tobacco use, underage drinking and alcohol misuse, prescription and opioid drug misuse, illicit drug use and youth marijuana use, prevention of suicide and the promotion of mental health and

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wellness. The Frederick County Health Department will collaborate with Frederick County Public Schools to share substance use prevention messages with students and parents and will use social media to promote prevention messages with the public. Partners in the community will be invited to participate in the “I Choose” Project where people are asked to take a photo of themselves, their family, or friends holding a sign with a written statement expressing why they choose prevention. SAMHSA will share the “I Choose” photos in an online photo gallery for others to see.

The three primary goals of National Prevention Week are to 1) involve communities in raising awareness about behavioral health issues and implementing prevention strategies, 2) foster partnerships and collaboration with federal agencies and national organizations dedicated to behavioral and public health, and 3) promote and disseminate quality behavioral health resources and publications. “National Prevention Week offers an ideal opportunity for communities across Frederick County and the nation to come together with one voice to rally around and promote substance use prevention and to promote mental health”, states Todd Crum, Substance Abuse Prevention Supervisor with the Frederick County Health Department.

For more information about National Prevention Month, visit www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week. For information about the services and programs of the Frederick County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services Division, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BHS or call 301-600-1755.

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